



Maine Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2019 – 9am – 12pm / Deering room 106

Invited: Chris Riley, Edward Coleman, Nancy Grant, Norman Poirier, Holly Sheehan, Bob Meyers, Noah Pollack, Jessica Steele, Tracy Willette, Charlie Woodworth, Cathy Small, Gary Marquis, Jane Arbuckle, Jedediah Talbot, Doug Beck, Lindsey May, Lana LaPlant-Ellis, Rex Turner, Burnham Martin, Eric Dibner, Patrick Adams, Carolann Ouellette, Kristine Keeney

Present: Chris Riley, Nancy Grant, Norm Poirier, Holly Sheehan, Tracy Willette, Cathy Small, Gary Marquis, Jed Talbot, Lindsey May, Erick Dibner, Doug Beck

Absent: Edward Coleman, Bob Meyers, Noah Pollack, Lana LaPlant-Ellis, Rex Turner, Burnham Martin, Patrick Adams, Carolann Ouellette, Kristine Keeney

Call to order

- I. Welcome
- II. 2020 Awards Review & Recommendations
 - A. Funding Overview
 - 1) Keep 7% admin to support trail inventory / assessment work
 - 2) SEP only what is needed
 - 3) Balance for development
 - (a) Recall that 100% motorized going to BPL acquisition of bridges on Madison rail line for future multi use – primarily atv / snowmobile – trail corridor 35mi long.
 - B. Subcommittee recommendations for funding
 - 1) See attached scoring tally
 - C. Discussion
 - 1) Review of DOT funding levels for RTP and impact increased funding would have on award outcomes – more money, more projects
 - 2) Total applications down, trend since increased funds, and received only 17 total this year
 - 3) While few projects were perfect, most were fundable. Implementation questions would need to be resolved between STA and project sponsor. 12 of 17 were funded with one receiving less than full amount
 - 4) Not funded:
 - (a) Sanford development request due to ineligibility of a majority of the project per RTP guidance. This is really a safe routes to school project with a lot of on street and therefore ineligible components.
 - (b) Sanford SEP request not funded for similar reasons as above, lack of clarity about what kind of signage they were requesting and where the signs would be posted (one



example provided was a park name sign, not trail related). The project seemed intended to support the requested development project.

- (c) Mid Coast Conservancy project appeared to serve the project sponsor and their programming efforts with the school more than it might the general community. Lack of community support and uninspired design.
- (d) Kennebec Estuary Land Trust not funded primarily because of an incomplete application – lacking clearance letter responses by application deadline.
- (e) Rumford not funded due to non-compliant expectations for preferred contractor and questionable construction objectives. This was a repeat application submitted two years before – also denied – with no modifications since.

D. MTAC Funding recommendations

- 1) See attached score sheet tally and final award sheet.
- 2) Following preliminary recommendations,

III. Other Business

A. Membership

- 1) Review current membership and vacancies.

B. Elections

- 1) C Riley nominated T Willette to serve another term as chair; Holly 2nd – all in favor
- 2) B Myers is retiring. Seat on the committee will be filled by MSA rep to be designated. Vice Chair position is vacant. No nominations at this time from attending members.

C. Updates

1) Trail Standards

- (a) Doug reported this effort behind desired schedule, but target for work this winter

2) RTP/MCC trail inventory & assessment

- (a) Close to 300 miles of trail inventoried. Work to continue this coming season with potential to farm out capacity to non state trail sponsors on a fee for service basis.

- 3) Doug discussed and summarized recent sponsors use of RTP Safety and Environmental Protection funds. Many return again and again to this funding as a sustaining resource rather than a kickstarter type resource. (*While this is not prohibited, language in the grant application clearly asks how the project will be sustained absent future RTP assistance.*) This includes BPL efforts to consistently revise and print park and public lands map & guides. Most of not all of the typical use of this SEP funding could be replaced. What is not being done however is elevating the skill and knowledge base for modern trail best practices.

- (a) Doug proposed that Maine RTP eliminate a grant / award component for SEP funds and that instead any SEP funds would be used for the sponsorship of training efforts available to the greater trail community to elevate the understanding and encourage the use of modern trail construction standards and or other related trainings. Nancy moved, Jed 2nd to support this initiative with the understanding that if no SEP related trainings are offered in any given year that more funds would be available for acquisition / development projects. Motion passed unanimously.



- IV. Sharing – What’s new with you and your trail sector?
- V. Adjournment / Next Meeting
 - A. No date selected



	Applicant	Requested	Awarded	Ctgry	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	TOTAL	% of Max
1	Katadahdin Area Trails	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	D	178	117	195	173	190			170.60	79.35%
2	Bethel	\$ 43,614.00	\$ 43,614.00	D	150	158	174	153	170			161.00	74.88%
3	Sanford	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	D	135	156	144	177	140			150.40	69.95%
4	Frenchman's Bay	\$ 42,393.00	\$ 42,393.00	D	131	139	177	138	127			142.40	66.23%
5	Loon Echo	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	D	160	141	152	136	108			139.40	64.84%
6	KELT	\$ 31,837.50	\$ -	D	115	126	158	163	133			139.00	64.65%
7	Rangeley Lakes	\$ 20,850.00	\$ 20,850.00	D	103	128	134	158	167			138.00	64.19%
8	Rumford	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	D	0	151	120	169	170			122.00	56.74%
9	Hope	\$ 49,900.00	\$ 49,900.00	NM	177	207	184	162	185	141	194	178.57	83.06%
10	Harpwell	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	NM	163	197	169	141	168	165	171	167.71	78.01%
11	Scarborough Land Trust	\$ 14,610.00	\$ 14,610.00	NM	134	162	146	163	190	147	174	159.43	74.15%
12	Saco	\$ 11,681.00	\$ 11,681.00	NM	91	182	160	143	185	132	186	154.14	71.69%
13	MidCoast	\$ 49,900.00	\$ -	NM	130	200	144	163	127	167	180	158.71	73.82%
14	Northern Forest	\$ 13,400.00	\$ 13,400.00	NM	118	174	135	127	165	152	178	149.86	69.70%
15	Black Mountain	\$ 38,400.00	\$ 32,960.41	NM	138	128	151	145	134	138	155	141.29	65.71%
16	Sanford	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	SEP	67	180	76	84	152		154	118.83	
17	Maine Appalachian Trail	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	SEP	99	212	95	85	68		195	125.67	